

**Legislative Testimony
Human Services Committee
HB 5500 AAC Provider Audits Under the Medicaid Program
March 14, 2014
Ira M. Greene, DDS**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Dr. Ira Greene. I currently serve as the President of the Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentistry. I have been in the private practice of pediatric dentistry in Avon, Connecticut since 1984. I have been a long time faculty member in pediatric dentistry at the University of Connecticut (1982) and have provided expertise for many years to the Connecticut Department of Public Health regarding standards of care for the treatment of children and older patients with special needs. I currently sit on the Department of Social Services Dental Policy Advisory Council. I am also a Medicaid provider. I am writing to advocate for passage of House Bill 5500 An Act Concerning Provider Audits Under The Medicaid Program.

As president of the Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentistry many colleagues have approached the Executive Board of the Society with their concerns regarding the current auditing policies of the Department of Social Services. It has been reported by the auditors themselves that their intent is to audit every participating dentist in the Medicaid program. It is our concern that this reflects harmful and misguided public policy. It also may be not the best utilization of valuable tax payer dollars. The major thrust of any auditing process should be to discover and combat fraud. Pediatric dentists in general treat their patients based on their post- doctoral training and in compliance with the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. In contrast the auditing process as employed by DSS in Connecticut is by report largely based on their 1984 manual which was recognized by DSS itself as being problematic. It was revised in 2013 but this revision has not yet been released. Standards for audit must be based on current clinical practices. These standards must be published ahead of time and not subject to interpretation. Auditing all providers punishes those professionals who are trying to provide a high standard of care while navigating in an often difficult and cumbersome program that by itself is not free from errors. Undergoing an audit is a time consuming stressful and financially expensive process for the participating dentist. Many of my colleagues will hire attorneys to protect their rights and their reputations. The end result will be diminished participation by highly skilled professionals and therefore decreased access by patients enrolled in Medicaid to the expert care they may require.

I would like to sincerely thank-you for your time today and ask that you support this valuable bill and consider impact of the bill on the citizens of the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Membership
of the Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentistry

Ira M. Greene, DDS
President
34 Dale Road
Avon, CT 06001
860-674-0874
captgreene@comcast.net